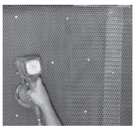
M S International, Inc.

Premium Natural Stones™

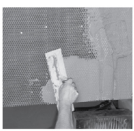
INSTALLATION OF VENEER STONE

1. Preparing the surface *(skip to step 3 if applying stone directly to block or cement surface)*



When preparing the surface, apply a weather resistant barrier such as 2 ply 60 minute black paper as a water resistive barrier to a non-masonry surface. Overlap the paper 2" on horizontal seems and 6" on vertical seems. Apply wire lath horizontally over the paper. Overlap the lath 2" on vertical seams and at least 1" on horizontal seems. Use 1" nails or staples to secure the lath. Nail or staple the lath vertically every 6" to further secure the lath. It is important to fasten the lath on both sides of the frame when coming to a corner.

2. Scratch coat



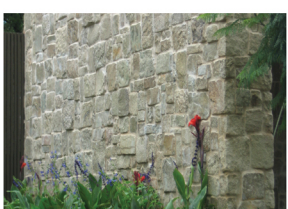
Now you are ready for the scratch coat. Mix the mortar and cover the lath entirely in mortar using a masonry trowel. And before the mortar dries, use a bristled brush to scratch the mortar. Allow enough time for the mortar to dry before applying the stone.

3. Start with the corners

It's time to apply the stone. The scratch coat must be wet. Mix the mortar and apply it to the wall where you will set the corners. Pick the first corner and apply mortar to the back of the stone or "butter" the stone with a 3/8 thickness of mortar. Start at the bottom of the wall and work up. Alternate the corners form long side to short side. This will create a random pattern and will appear more natural. Apply several feet of corners to begin.

4. Applying the flats

For the flat pieces, apply the mortar to the scratch coat 5 – 10 square feet at a time so the mortar does not set up before the stone is applied. Start from the bottom up and go across and one row at time. Also remember to "butter" each stone before applying to the wall. Alternate large pieces and short pieces. It will be necessary to cut pieces of stone to fit in small gaps so use a grinder with a 4" diamond blade to cut the stone and to fit these stones in the gaps. The cutting will create dust, so be sure to do it outside. A level must be used if the stone is linear. Check each line to make sure it is level.

5. Grouting the joints

In order to grout the joints, use a grout bag. Cut the bag at the tip and avoid smearing mortar on the stone. If mortar gets on the stone, it may be cleaned after it has dried and has become crumbly. Use a dry bristled brush to clean the stone.